

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1915

Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Achadjian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Ian Calderon, Fox,
Hall, Holden, Nestande, Patterson, and Wilk)
(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Lara, Vidak, and Yee)

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as amended, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: social sciences: Armenian Genocide.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences. Existing law requires the instruction in social studies to provide instruction in, among other things, human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill would enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act and would require the instruction in human rights issues to also include particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of the Armenian Genocide, as defined. To the extent this bill would increase the level of service required to be provided by school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements. *Under existing law, the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human rights, genocide, and the Holocaust. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.*

This bill would also ~~require the incorporation of~~ *encourage the department to incorporate* materials related to the Armenian Genocide, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides into those publications, and would ~~make other related changes and nonsubstantive changes:~~ *require the commission to consider the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides for inclusion in the history-social science curriculum framework when the history-social science curriculum framework is revised as required by law. The bill would also specify that the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.*

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Armenian Genocide Education Act.
- 3 SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
- 4 read:
- 5 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
- 6 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

1 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
2 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
3 listening, and speaking.

4 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
5 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
6 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
7 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
8 the history, resources, development, and government of California
9 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
10 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
11 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
12 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
13 development of the American economic system, including the role
14 of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their
15 human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and
16 civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the
17 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, the Armenian
18 Genocide, and the Holocaust, and contemporary issues.

19 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than
20 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
21 reading, and writing the particular language.

22 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
23 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
24 required by Section 51222.

25 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
26 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
27 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,
28 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
29 interdependence of the sciences.

30 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
31 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
32 problem-solving procedures.

33 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
34 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
35 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

36 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
37 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business
38 education, or general agriculture.

39 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
40 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the

1 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
2 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
3 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

4 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
5 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws
6 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper
7 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation
8 of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents,
9 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe
10 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver
11 education shall include education in the safe operation of
12 motorcycles.

13 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

14 SEC. 3. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to
15 read:

16 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall incorporate into
17 publications that provide examples of curriculum resources for
18 teacher use those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction,
19 trade books, and primary sources, or other public or private
20 organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with the
21 subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
22 civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, ~~the~~
23 ~~Armenian Genocide~~, and the Holocaust.

24 (2) *The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate*
25 *into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources*
26 *for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of*
27 *nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or*
28 *private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent*
29 *with the subject frameworks on history and social science that*
30 *deal with the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan*
31 *genocides.*

32 (b) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
33 rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human
34 rights, ~~genocide, the Armenian Genocide, and the Holocaust.~~ *the*
35 *Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not limited to, the*
36 *Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.*

37 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
38 development activities to provide teachers with content background
39 and resources to assist in teaching about civil rights, human rights

1 violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and the
2 Holocaust.

3 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
4 development activities to provide teachers with content background
5 and resources to assist in teaching about the Great Irish Famine of
6 1845–50.

7 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in
8 the next cycle in which the history-social science curriculum
9 framework and its accompanying instructional materials are
10 adopted.

11 (f) *When the history-social science curriculum framework is*
12 *revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission*
13 *shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and*
14 *Rwandan genocides in the history-social science curriculum*
15 *framework.*

16 ~~(f)~~

17 (g) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
18 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be
19 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as
20 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department
21 shall make the curriculum available on its Internet Web site.

22 ~~(g)~~

23 (h) For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means
24 the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which
25 included death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the
26 Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000
27 innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.

28 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
29 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
30 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
31 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
32 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.